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THOMAS G. NEWMAN,
EDITOR.

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Editorial Buzzings.

Be to Every Man just—and to woman
Be gentle and tender and true;
For thine own do thy best, but for no man
Do less than a brother should do.

So living thy days to full number,
In peace thou shalt pass to thy grave;
Thou shalt lie down and rest thee and slumber,
Beloved, loving hearted and brave.
—Samuel Waddington.

Reports recently received from California are to the effect that the honey crop in that State is short, and that the most of the honey has already been sold.

The Parks Basket, which is so nice, convenient and light, for shipping supplies for bee-keepers, and, in fact, for any line of light goods, is rapidly coming into use. We hear that Mr. Parks has sold his interest in New York for his invention, for \$15,000 in cash.

The Honey Crop is as yet an unknown quantity. Look at the expressions published lately in this journal:

No honey at all.
The best crop for four years.
Poorest honey crop ever known.
Two-thirds of a crop.
Honey crop a total failure.
Basswood the only hope.
Heavy crop of honey.
A good honey-crop.
White clover a failure.
Good yield of honey.
No good white clover honey.
Honey crop ruined by honey-dew.
No honey-dew this Summer.
No honey in the sections.
An average crop.
Fair crop of honey.
Very little nectar.
Good season for honey.
Poor honey-flow.
Good yield from basswood.

We could enumerate many more, but these are enough to show that the country is too much extended, and the climatic conditions too varied to be able yet to arrive at definite conclusions as to the quantity of honey contained in this year's crop. We hope that there is a large Fall crop yet to come.

Dr. C. C. Miller says that he thinks that he will have "a better crop than for years." We hope so, but it is quite evident that the Doctor's favorite expression is still appropriate: "I don't know."

How and Where?—A subscriber asks the following very pointed questions:

What per cent. of those devoting their entire attention to the bee and honey business, excluding supply dealers, clear \$1,000 or over per year above their running expenses?

Where is the best locality for a young bee-man to locate?—His desire being to locate permanently, and give his whole attention to bee-keeping?

These questions are more easily asked than answered. Who will try to reply?

R. B. Leahy, of Higginsville, Mo., gave us a call last week. He is a supply dealer, and is making preparations for next season's business already.

Illinois Honey Exhibits at the World's Fair, and the necessary united efforts to make a credible show, is the theme now engaging the attention of Illinois apiarists. The following from friend A. N. Draper is to the point:

On page 102 an invitation is given, to every one interested to write at once and give their opinion. I waited to see what some of the prominent bee-keepers would say or do; but it seems as though there is very little interest taken in the movement. I cannot understand why it is so, as it seems to me as though the importance of this movement can hardly be overestimated.

Every bee-keeper in the State ought to become a member of the Illinois Bee-Keepers' Association. This would give us a membership of about 10,000 and with this number of members, we would be able to accomplish something. To-day, this association has only 16 members, yet with this small number we have secured an appropriation of \$500 to publish our proceedings.

Now, it seems to me that with this liberal encouragement the bee-keepers all over the State ought to respond. If we do not receive our just portion of the appropriation for the World's Fair, it will be the fault of the bee-keepers themselves, for we have the numbers and the influence. The only thing we lack is organization. To get every one interested to join the movement is for the benefit of all bee-keepers, and especially of every one who lives in the State of Illinois. The World's Fair is going to be the biggest thing of the kind that Illinois has ever had. Are the bee-keepers going to sit still and let the brothers from some other State come right to their own home and outdo them?

Send your name and address with \$1 to Mr. James A. Stone, Bradfordton, Ills., and have your name enrolled as a member, and the sooner the better, for in union there is strength. The list of members should reach into the hundreds by the time we meet in September, even though the members are not all there. But for my part, I should be pleased to see every bee-keeper in the State there, and all of his friends who may be interested in bee-culture. Come if you possibly can, and if you cannot come, why, at least have your name placed upon the roll of members, and help the movement all that you can, and in no way can you help the cause of bee-culture, more than in this.

If the bee-keepers all over the State will join in this movement, we will have from \$2,500 to \$3,000, and perhaps from \$6,000 to \$10,000 to place the exhibit where it ought to be. But this result cannot be reached unless we can make the Illinois Bee-Keepers' Association what it ought to be. It should number, at least, from 500 to 1,000. There will be a good many other benefits that will accrue from an organization like this, and which can be secured in no other way. Let us show to our Legislature that their action is appreciated by us; that we are worthy of their appreciation and assistance.

I heartily endorse what Mr. Stone has to say on page 102 of the BEE JOURNAL, about the meeting in September. We can get all we want, or need, if we will only unite and work; but we have no time to lose. If we hold back, and wait for some one else to do the work, we will not accomplish much. We want the influence and respect that our numbers should command.

A. N. DRAPER.
Upper Alton, Ills., Aug. 5, 1891.

The editor of the BEE JOURNAL last week had an interview with the Committee of Agriculture of the Board of Managers of the Illinois State Exhibit, relative to the proportion which should be credited to apiarists for their exhibit at the World's Fair. The necessities of the case were argued, pro and con, and the chairman, with the concurrence of the Committee, said: "You may say to your people that they will receive their full share of the appropriation, and all the space and attention necessary to make the exhibit of Bees and Honey a grand success."

Mr. Draper is quite right. With a united front, we can obtain all the recognition we want. In all departments of life, energy and united efforts accomplish great undertakings.

Mr. John P. Reynolds has been elected Director-in-Chief, at a salary of \$7,000 a year, out of which he has to pay the expenses of his office. In a letter to Hon. J. M. Hambaugh, in reply to one sent him on the subject, he says:

I recognize the interest you refer to (bee-keeping, supplies and products) as an important one, and as a department of general agriculture which has always,

and very properly, received encouragement at the hands of the State Board of Agriculture.

The bill (374 Senate), as I understand it, provides for a "full and complete collection of all the cultivated products in the several branches of AGRICULTURE—farmculture, horticulture, and floriculture"—also appropriates "a sum not to exceed 5 per cent. of the appropriation.....to encourage and promote live stock exhibits of all kinds in the State of Illinois."

These two provisions seem to fully authorize the recognition of bee-keeping and products in making up the State Exhibit at the World's Fair, and I am sure you can rely upon the good sense and good faith of every member of the State Board of Agriculture, and their pride as citizens, to do all which the means at their command, and the regulations of the National Commission, will permit them to do in bringing bee-keeping and every other important agricultural interest to the very front in their respective lines. For myself I pledge my vote and influence to that end.

JOHN P. REYNOLDS, V.-P.

The letter from Mr. Hambaugh, referred to above, was sent to several members of the Board of Agriculture, who now have charge of the whole matter, and reads thus:

DEAR SIR:—I discover that no provision has been made in the Senate Bill, now before the House, relative to the World's Columbian Exhibition, for a proper and suitable exhibit of Honey, Wax and Apiarian Supplies.

My bill, calling for an appropriation of \$5,000.00, will be made an amendment to the Senate Bill, unless I have prompt assurance from the members of the State Board of Agriculture of a proper recognition of this industry, and for this purpose I desire an immediate answer from you, with assurance that you will give this interest due consideration, and allow the bee-keepers of this State a pro rata amount, say one-half of one per cent. of the gross appropriation.

Quite a number of the members of the Board of Agriculture have given assurance that bee-culture should receive liberal recognition. In order to assure the 10,000 bee-keepers of Illinois of this, we give the following extracts from their letters, sent to Mr. Hambaugh, in reply to the foregoing:

Hon. Lafayette Funk, President of the Board, writes:

The State Board of Agriculture, if put in control of the above subject matter, will carry into effect just what you gentlemen of the Legislature prescribe in the law upon the subject.

Hon. E. E. Chester, Vice-President for the Fifteenth District, writes:

I can assure you (aside from the fact that I am personally interested in bee-culture) that I shall heartily approve of the appropriation of at least as much as one-half of one per cent. of the amount appropriated for the State exhibit, to be used in the interests of bees and honey.

Hon. James W. Judy, Vice-President for the Thirteenth District, wrote:

As a member of the State Board of Agriculture, and as a citizen of the State of Illinois, I am fully in sympathy with the sentiment contained in your communication. I want the bee-keepers' interest, and every other industry of Illinois, fairly represented at the World's Columbian Fair, and will use my best efforts for the accomplishment of the same.

Hon. James W. Washburn, Vice-President for the Twentieth District, wrote:

I shall most willingly favor an appropriation by the Board of one-half of one per cent. of whatever appropriation may be made, for the purposes you indicate. I am strongly in favor of encouraging the bee-industry.

Hon. B. F. Wyman, wrote as follows:

I should certainly favor a suitable appropriation to enable the bee-keepers to make a creditable display of honey, wax and bee supplies, at the Columbian Fair.

Hon. E. C. Pace expressed himself in this forcible language:

From numerous communications that I have received, there seems to be an impression on the minds of many, that the object of the State Board of Agriculture in this Columbian Exposition business was to *avoid* exhibiting the resources of the State, instead of *making*, as they desire to do, *the best possible exhibit*.

One interest in our State is exactly as near to them as another. They have no pet hobbies, and I can assure you with

the utmost confidence, that every interest in the State will receive the consideration, to which it is entitled. Any one who has given the subject of bee-culture any attention, will recognize at once its importance, and in a country like this in which I live, where it forms one of our principal products, it is unnecessary for me to assure you that the interest will be carefully nurtured, and full justice done it, as well as every other interest in the State. The intention of the Board, so far as I have heard an expression, is to show off the resources of the State to the very best possible advantage, and by this means to proclaim to the world what we so well know, that Illinois is the greatest State in the Union.

Hon. A. B. Hostetter, Vice-President for the Sixth District, wrote thus:

I certainly favor a liberal recognition of the "bee industry," and I hope the appropriation will be made large enough so that not only this industry, but any other not specially mentioned in the bill, and worthy of recognition, can have liberal encouragement and be exhibited at the World's Fair to the best possible advantage, and to the credit of our whole State.

Hon. B. Pullen, Vice-President, wrote thus:

I recognize the importance of the industry referred to, and would be disposed to give it a fair and liberal recognition.

Hon. Samuel Dysart, Vice-President for the Seventh District, wrote:

I have been in the bee-keeping business for 25 years.....and I will certainly use all my influence to have that industry recognized in proportion to other rural pursuits.

Hon. J. Irving Pearce, Vice-President for the First District, wrote thus:

I assure you that the bee-keeping industry of Illinois shall have everything done for it that the law will allow us to do. You will find me the friend and champion of that industry.

With these assurances we ought to be well satisfied that when the apportionment is made (probably next December), the bee-keeping industry of Illinois will receive its due share of the funds appropriated by the State. It will be well for bee-keepers in every district to write to

their Vice-Presidents next October, to keep it before their minds, and let them know that we are confiding in their sense of honor and justice, confirmed by the promises of many of their members, and expect our due share of the public funds, so as to be able to make an exhibit which shall be a credit to the State, as well as the entire Northwest.

Gleanings has donned a new engraved title page. Its general appearance is far ahead of the old one.

Quite a Number of our late callers were on their way home from the Grand Army Encampment, at Detroit. Among them came Mr. James Farnbrook, of Watertown, Wis., of one-piece section notoriety.

The New Medals will be illustrated in next week's BEE JOURNAL. They are for competition at Bee and Honey Shows, one for comb-honey and one for extracted-honey. Two medals are furnished free to each affiliated society by the North American Bee-Keepers' Association; the award being made by the officers of the local societies.

Rev. E. T. Abbott, of St. Joseph, Mo., made a friendly call last week. In the latest Railroad Classification, comb-foundation is listed as "artificial comb." Mr. Abbott had an interview with Mr. Ripley, the manager of the Traffic Association, and, as a result, it will be named "Bee Comb-foundation," in the next edition. Mr. Abbott also labored with the Manager to get a reduced rate on bee-hives and sections in car-loads. This will be considered by the Committee at the next meeting.

The Darke County Union Bee-Keepers' Society will hold a basket meeting, on the Fair Grounds, at Greenville, Ohio, on Saturday, August 22. Everybody invited.—J. A. Roe, Secretary, Union City, Ind.

Apiculture in Canada.—From the annual report for 1890, just published, we glean the following statistical information:

The Ontario Bee-Keepers' Association reports an increase of nearly 100 per cent. in its membership, which last year numbered 353. Its policy is to encourage the formation of local societies, and last year there were eleven of these affiliated with the parent body. They are the Middlesex, Norfolk, Brant, Bruce, Oxford, Perth, Haldimand, Lambton, Kent, Western Ontario, and Listowel Bee-Keepers' Associations.

It is remarkable that the organizations are all in the western portion of the Province. This is not because the eastern part of Ontario is unfavorable for honey production or destitute of bee-keepers. It has just happened to be so; precisely as the dairy interest, while capable of flourishing in most parts of the country, has happened to center itself in the counties of Oxford and Hastings. There are few localities in Canada where honey does not abound, and if there were only bees and bee-keepers enough to gather it, a vast addition might be made to the national wealth from this source.—*Rural Canadian*.

The Punic Bees are very lively yet, though the sample lot sent us by friend E. L. Pratt, have been caged and on our desk for some 10 days. Since writing this we have taken another look at them. None of them are dead, and none of them seem to be weary. But all are not captivated with the Punic bees. Dr. J. W. Vance, thus mentions them, and others, in the *Wisconsin Farmer* of last week:

I think I shall never become reconciled to black bees, even if they are of the Punic stock. The Punic are said to be the greatest known, yet if they are as gentle as the Carthaginians I fear I should not be able to live in peace with them. I once had a sample of Carniolans, a variety said to be extraordinarily gentle, and my experience with them was such that I was very glad to supersede the two queens and introduce Italians. The Carniolans seemed to possess the natural propensity of blacks to sting, and not only did they exercise their genius in that way when any one came near their hives, but they visited the

neighbors on adjoining lots and chased them to some safe retreat. I shall always have a suspicion of any bee possessing any sort of black blood. I will wait awhile before investing \$40 in a "Punic" queen.

Some One has written us a letter descriptive of a non-swarming hive. It gives no name or address, nor anything to indicate where it came from. Several questions are asked, but it is impossible to reply for lack of identity.

A Section-Folder and Foundation Fastener, combined, is received from Mr. W. O. Leach. It is ingenious and practical. He intends to exhibit it at the Toronto (Ont.) exhibition next month. We hope to be able to present an engraving of it next week.

Another Bee-Escape comes from Mr. C. H. Dibbern. He says, "it has been fully tested in actual use, under various conditions, and found almost perfect." It is $3\frac{3}{4} \times 6\frac{1}{4}$ inches, and is made of tin and wire cloth, with a Chinese puzzle or "labyrinth," inside. An engraving is being made which will give a better idea than can be conveyed by words. Our readers may expect that in our next issue.

Mrs. S. E. Sherman, of Salado, Texas, is editing a Bee Department in the *Southern Horticulturist*. In reference to the State Convention, she writes thus:

Why not have the State Association hold its annual meetings either at Dallas sometime during the fair, when the whole State could be repented, or, what might be better still, in conjunction with the State Horticultural Society. As these two pursuits are, or should be, inseparable, why not have a joint meeting of the two at the same time and place? I have worked with this end in view for quite a while, and hope in the near future to see it consummated. I would be pleased to hear from the officers of the State Association in regard to this change, and ascertain if it meets their approbation and approval.

Queries and Replies.

Evidence of a Queen Being in the Hive.

QUERY 779.—1. Is the carrying of pollen into the hive, after the bees are out of the cellar, a reliable evidence that there is a queen in the hive? 2. If not, is there any positive evidence, aside from examination, that there is a queen in the hive? If so, what is it?—Ohio.

1. No. 2. No.—J. M. HAMBAUGH.

1. No, sir. 2. No, sir.—J. P. H. BROWN.

1. No. 2. Yes, finding no brood.—A. J. COOK.

1. I do not think so. 2. I think not.—C. C. MILLER.

1. I think it is a good sign, but not infallible.—EUGENE SECOR.

1. No, it is not. 2. I do not know of any way to determine the matter, other than by an examination.—J. E. POND.

I know of no positive evidence beside inspection, but carrying in pollen at all freely is good enough evidence.—R. L. TAYLOR.

1. It is usually good evidence, especially if noticed at once. 2. Nothing short of an examination is *positive* proof.—DADANT & SON.

1. If one of my colonies is carrying in plump, full loads of pollen, that is evidence enough that there is a fertile queen in the hive.—JAMES HEDDON.

1. No. 2. If Ohio is a live bee-keeper, as he should be, it will be nothing but fun for him to look into the hive, and see that it has a queen.—G. M. DOOLITTLE.

1. It is a good indication when you see pollen at that time. 2. Look for immature brood at the entrance early in the morning, as you will often see it.—H. D. CUTTING.

1. Queenless bees will carry pollen, but not as freely as those that have a queen. 2. The only positive evidence of queenlessness is the absence of eggs and of brood, and even that is not always infallible.—M. MAHIN.

1. Yes, if they are carrying in considerable quantities of pollen. 2. If the bees work as if they meant to "get there," besides bringing in pollen, you are safe in marking that hive as having a good queen.—C. H. DIBBERN.

1. No; but when a colony is actively at work carrying in pollen, they have a queen. 2. Queenless colonies in Spring carry in some pollen, but are listless and comparatively inactive. Many bees will also be seen about the entrance, to ward off robbers.—G. L. TINKER.

1. Not always. 2. They might have brood. I am seldom deceived by their actions, but I can hardly tell why. This Spring I noticed a hive that had always many bees around the entrance, while others had no time for loafing. The colony was quite large, and I inferred that they were queenless. A balled queen was rescued, which I gave to them, and their actions changed. Any observing person, can soon learn the difference between queenless colonies and others.—MRS. L. HARRISON.

1. Well, it is a mighty good sign that all is right when bees begin promptly to carry in pollen in the early Spring. When bees are queenless they soon begin to stand listlessly about the entrance, and show a dull inactivity, too plain to escape the eye of the experienced apiarist. 2. Bees that have brood left to rear queens from, may not show their queenlessness so plainly, but even in that case I am not likely to be deceived as to their condition.—G. W. DEMAREE.

1. Not invariably. 2. An examination only will give positive evidence of there being a queen in the hive.—THE EDITOR.

Sundry Questions.

Different Strains of Bees.

1. Which would be the most profitable for honey gathering, the golden Italian or Carniolan? 2. Which works on red clover the best? 3. Is there any way of keeping a pure breed of Italians from surrounding hybrid colonies. If so, how is it managed? E. G. GOLIJENBOOM.
German Valley, Ill.

[1. The golden Carniolans have done better all around, this season, than any other race or strain. Have not had time to test the Pancies on honey yet, but they bid fair to beat the world. In all points thus far they are ahead of any kind of bee we ever had.

2. One race will work on red clover as well as another. It is only the second

growth that bees touch anyway, here, and that is not enough to count on. The red clover "gag" is about played out.

3. The only way I know of keeping bees pure is to put drone-traps on all hives within one mile of your bees, and to the hives of all impure colonies in your own apiary, allowing only your best drones to fly at swarming time. If you allow no increase it is a simple matter to keep the bees all pure, and of the best quality, by purchasing warranted queens from some reliable queen breeder, and introduce one to each of your colonies. A good queen will live two years, and often three, so you will not be obliged to replace them all at one time, but purchase a few each season to take the places of the oldest ones. The best time to requeen your colonies is after the honey-flow.—E. L. PRATT.]

Honey and Pollen on the Same Trip.

Bees are doing but little here now. Do bees bring in pollen and honey on the same trip? Please answer this question in the BEE JOURNAL. S. B. DILLER.
Albion, Iowa, Aug. 3, 1891.

[It is a fact that nearly all the flowers which give nectar yield pollen also, and when the bees gather a load of the one, quite often they have some of the other. The honey being carried in the honey sac, and the pollen in the pollen pockets on the thighs, neither one interferes with the other.—Ed.]

Carniolan Bees.

With this letter I send a cage of Carniolan bees. The mother of them was hatched and fertilized in Germany, and imported by me. Please compare them with other bees sent to the BEE JOURNAL, and state the difference in color. I say that Carniolan bees are not golden or yellow. I know what I am talking about, for I have imported them at different times. If the Carniolan bees are a golden or yellow color, I have been humbugged. I will say, further, that I have not sold a queen, or offered one for sale; I got them for my own benefit, and

so far I like them. I have been handling my bees from imported queens all Summer, but never had one attempt to sting me. I use no smoke.

L. Highbarger.

Leaf River, Ill., Aug. 3, 1891.

[The bees sent by Mr. Highbarger are distinctly marked with yellow bands, but they are not "golden yellow" by any means. They are quiet and contented, and show no excitable motions. When first imported they were called Kralner bees, and several descriptions of them may be found in back volumes of the AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL.—Ed.]

Prediction About the Honey Crop.

I am inclined to think that we have a prophet in Tennessee. Mr. Sam Wilson prophesied in January last that linden and sourwood would be almost a failure here. With little confidence in the prediction I took a note of it, and find it true. He also prophesied, in March, that early bloom would be good. From fruit, poplar and persimmon we had an excellent flow of honey. He prophesied for a few other States also, and, from what I can learn, he was very nearly correct with regard to them. I live near the Allegheny mountains. Our bees have been stronger here than common this year. We have had heavy rainfalls here for some days past. My bees have not swarmed much this season, although 1 colony increased to 4.

R. A. SHULTZ.

Cosby, Tenn., August 4, 1891.

[Mr. Wilson's predictions have been on record in this office for months, and will be published as soon as we receive a reply to our letter, mailed to him some days ago. All would be interested to learn how the conclusion was arrived at.—Ed.]

When Writing a letter be sure to sign it. Too often we get letters with the name of the post-office, but no County or State. One such came recently, and we looked into the Postal Guide and found there were places by that name in 13 States. That order for goods will have to wait until another letter comes to give the proper address. Be sure to stamp your letter, or it may go to the dead letter office.

RAIN.

The brooks leaped up to catch it,
 And the breezes held their breath;
 The lilies sprang up boldly
 And shook their heads at death.
 The roses blushed to crimson
 At the kisses of the rain,
 And the sun looked out and saw it
 With a flush of jealous pain.
 —May Riley Smith.

Topics of Interest.

Spraying Fruit Trees While in Bloom.

A. J. COOK.

I hope you will publish the following from the *American Garden*:

"A law against killing our insect foes! Two generations of cultivators have been striving to discover methods or enact laws to enable man to harvest his share of the crops. And now comes that wise and good man, Prof. A. J. Cook, of Michigan, advocating a law to prevent fruit-growers from spraying blossoming fruit trees with poisonous insecticides, because, forsooth, the bees are also insects, and will go into the trees in search of honey. Verily, it must be that Prof. Cook was trained in an ultra 'protectionist' school! The bees are all right, and honey is a good thing, but really, it seems as if the fair old rule of 'the greatest good to the greatest number' were a just guide in such matters. Surely fruit is of more importance than honey! If those busy workers must have legislation, let us advocate a training school for bees, in which they may be taught to keep out of the orchards at the dangerous period. The fence question comes in here, too. Will not the law compelling an owner of domestic animals to fence them in, apply to apiarians, as well as to other stock-farmers? Is it more lawful for bees to trespass, than for a cow or a pig?"

It shows that even the veriest nonsense will occasionally find a place in the best of papers. The editor of the *American Garden* would denounce the above, as we would, as sheerest absurdity. He knows that bees are as valuable to the horticulturist as to the apiarist, and that the law referred to is as much desired by every intelligent horticulturist as by the apiarist. When trees are in blossom is not the time to spray, setting bees aside, as the Michigan Horticultural Society

has urged for years. The writer of this article should study the elements before he essays to instruct others in horticultural matters. I am sure such pseudo wisdom would pain the editor of the *Garden* as much as any one.

Agricultural College, Mich.

Bee-Keeping and Fruit Culture.

S. L. WATKINS.

A San Diego County apiarist writes me as follows:

I have read your articles in the *Pacific Rural Press* regularly, and I am always pleased with what you have to say. There is one thing that I have wanted to see you or some of our good writers do, and that is, write on the subject of law, or California law, in relation to bees or bee-keepers.

Some of my neighbors have an idea that they can make me move my bees any time they see fit, until those bees are five miles from any orchard or vineyard.

Now, if this is California law, we have not much right left us, and I do not feel like giving up a good business. L. Y. Elsinore, Calif.

Friend Y., do not become frightened; there is no danger of those neighbors of yours forcing you to move your bees five miles, or five inches either, for that matter, unless you want to.

Ignorance is generally the cause of the whole thing, and I strongly suspect that your non-agreeing neighbors are not up with the times.

In Placerville, at one of my apiaries, I was threatened with lawsuits on several occasions by a couple of persons who knew nothing at all of the habits of bees. They stated that the bees were eating up all their grapes, and in proof of their statement, invited me to come to their vineyard. I went. I found thousands of yellow-jackets and wasps at work, and also quite a number of bees.

"Now I want to see the bees opening grapes," I said. We watched a long time and took careful notice of a great many bees, and at last they had to admit that they were mistaken in regard to bees opening grapes. It is the yellow-jackets and wasps that do the real injury. Bees do nothing but suck at the juice after the fruit is injured, and unthinking persons seeing them do this, jump to the conclusion that the bee is the original trespasser.

I once asked the most extensive fruit-grower of Upper Placerville about how

much injury my bees did his fruit in a season, and he said that he thought 50 cents would cover damages for the juice they sucked up. His ranch was about 300 yards from my apiary, and he dried quite a number of tons of fruit every season; besides he had quite a vineyard.

The only real damage I ever knew my bees to do was to suck up the juice of extra ripe Bartlett pears which a friend was trying to dry. In a case like this, I would always pay the damage done by the bees. Bees are a great aid to fruit-growers in helping to fertilize the blossoms, and the good they do far overbalances the damage ever done by them.

Fruit-growers and bee-keepers should be friends. When they become involved in a difficulty about bees, let each come half-way and talk the matter over in all its bearings, and in all cases try to arrive at a friendly conclusion.—*Pacific Rural Press*.

Grizzly Flats, Calif.

Careful Handling of Bees.

BUZZ.

If there is one point I would impress upon the mind of a novice in bee-culture more than another, it is to acquire the habit from the first, of very careful handling.

While attending a National Bee Convention at Cincinnati, I was surprised and delighted with the good behavior of Mr. Muth's bees. There were about 40 colonies on the roof of his store, and there were about as many visitors as could be accommodated in the passage-way between the rows of hives. I do not remember that Mr. Muth used any smoke; I rather think he did not. He opened the hives, lifting out combs, and pointing out the queen to the visitors, who stood closely around. No one present had any protection, and though it was late in Fall, when no honey was being gathered, there was no stinging.

AMIALE BEES.

Bees came in and out of the store and customers did not appear to notice them more than flies. If a bee touched the hair of one of Mr. Muth's sons, he very gently brushed it aside. I said to one of them: "Do you ever kill any bees?" He said: "O, no! if we did, father would go for us."

After inspecting the apiary of Mr. Muth, a party of us took carriages, and were driven to Mt. Healthy, to visit the

apiary of Mr. Hill. Here I noticed the same thing. While a party stood around an open hive, I kept at a respectful distance, and remarked to a daughter of our host, I never before saw any bees like your's here in Ohio.

She replied: "It is all in the handling; my brother used to help father, and the bees were very cross; but since I help him, they are not so any more. I work gently, and never jar them, or strike at them with quick motions, and they never get excited." Hives manipulated without snap or jar, are most desirable. Our first hives had the frames covered with a board that pried up with a snap, which caused the bees to immediately elevate their tails, and a tiny drop of poison was occasionally seen. When, in lieu of this board, duck or heavy muslin was used, it was a move in the right direction, for this could be peeled back without causing any disturbance at all.

MASHING BEES.

This is another justifiable cause for war, as it releases the poison, and the scent of it angers them. When the clothing of a person has this scent, bees will attack it when near their hive.

In most apiaries of any size, there will often be a score or so of bees which appear to follow war as a business—never apparently going to the field for nectar, but watching the doors for someone to attack. The best way to manage such fighters, is to dispatch them at once; a palm-leaf fan is a good weapon; knock them down and step on them. This is much better than to be annoyed by them for weeks.

BEES DURING A SCARCITY OF HONEY.

Hives should not be opened during a scarcity of honey, unless it is absolutely necessary. Robbers will come around, and then stinging will be in order. During such a time, I have occasionally fed a colony a little for a day or two, and then opened them at a time of day when there was honey in the fields, or when few bees were flying.

To-day I discovered a hive which was queenless, and the moths had moved in; as I took out the moths, I discovered a little honey and the robbers did so at the same time. I let them eat it, as I usually do; if I had taken it away, they would have tried to enter adjoining hives, but let them carry it off and they are satisfied when it is gone. The hive is now desolate, and I shall use the combs in building up small colonies, by removing a comb of brood from strong colonies, giving it to the weak, and putting the

empty comb in the place of the one removed from the strong one. If there are any grubs of the bee-moth in them, a strong colony will soon roll them out, to the delight of an old hen, which has the freedom of the apiary.

HONEY CROP IN THE FALL.

All should keep their dishes right side up, for there promises to be a Fall flow. Two years of severe drouth killed white clover in many places; and what little bloom there was yielded sparingly. Basswood, too, had its off year in some regions. But abundant rains have fallen, and where bee-keepers are located near water courses and swampy, unoccupied lands, honey may yet be gathered. The draining of sloughs on the prairie is cutting off one source of honey supply, for where the plow and reaper go, bees stand but a poor chance. On the rough, stony land of New England, golden-rod blooms in all its glory; it is seen hugging the rocks on every hand, but on arable land there is none. Sweet clover has taken possession of Illinois, and is now the principal source of honey. It does not like kind treatment, but thrives best when run over by wagon wheels, on rough, gravelly soil.—O. J. Farmer.

Resin Cerate, or Basilicon Ointment.

DR. A. B. MASON.

Rosin, 5 ounces; lard, 8 ounces; beeswax (yellow), 2 ounces. Melt together, strain through cotton or linen, and stir constantly until cool.

If the ingredients are clear, the straining can be omitted. As an application for burns, it is "par excellence," and has been used in our family for over thirty years. I cannot speak too highly of it as an application in all cases of inflamed sores or wounds, or inflamed eyelids. Spread thickly on a cloth and apply to the part affected, renewing the application as often as necessary.

To show how valuable it is, I will relate two incidents: A few months ago a neighbor ran a nail into the palm of his hand so far as to raise the skin on the back of the hand. In a few hours the hand began to swell, and be very painful, followed by rapid and painful swelling of the arm. All remedies were a failure until I made an application of this ointment, and renewed it in half an hour. In less than an hour all pain had ceased, and within twelve hours the swelling had entirely disappeared.

A few days since, another neighbor was bitten on a sore on his hand by a fly, while sitting at the table. The hand soon became painful and began to swell, the swelling extending to the arm. A physician was called in, who pronounced it blood poisoning, but the treatment employed gave no relief.

Meeting him on the street with his arm in a sling, and learning what was the matter, I suggested a trial of the ointment, and gave him some. The next day he was at work as though nothing had been the matter.

I have just received the following recipe. It is tip top for a cough: Equal parts of unboiled linseed oil, Holland gin and honey. Dose—two teaspoonfuls, repeated as may be needed. I would suggest that the foregoing recipes be inserted in the next edition of the Honey Almanac.

New Philadelphia, Ohio.

Texas Apicultural Notes.

A. C. ATEN.

We are now having very dry weather in this part of Texas. It has rained but little during the last month, and cotton (the only crop not matured) is needing rain very much. With rain pretty soon it would make a good crop, but without rain the average will be poor.

While we had plenty of flowers in the Spring, and the indications were that the bees were doing well, they really gathered very little surplus, but they built up strong, and now they are booming, mostly on cotton.

Here, as a general thing, bees gather honey slowly all Summer and Fall. The wet weather in the Spring, I think, was the cause of the partial failure.

An old friend of mine, who lives about five miles from here, and whose word can be relied on, tells me that last Spring he noticed a very peculiar bee trying to rob one of his hybrid colonies. The robbers were very black, with one broad yellow band, about as wide again as the yellow bands on the Italians. They were about two-thirds as large as common bees. There were large numbers of them, and the other bees killed them in such numbers that sometimes he could have gathered up a double handful of dead ones. I wish I could have seen them, for I have never noticed anything like it among my bees. Mr. Thomas thinks his bees killed about all of them,

but it took them over a week. Can Prof. Cook say what they were?

I was rather amused by an editorial in *Home and Farm* a few weeks ago, in which it was claimed that an apiary, well managed, could be made to yield an average of \$135 per colony. But when his correspondents began to write letters expressing doubts, the editor said it was a mistake, that he meant to say that a good colony could be made to yield \$35. To do this, at 7 cents per pound, there would have to be 500 pounds of extracted honey, which, I think, is very rarely obtained from a single colony.

When, however, Mr. Pelham, of Maysville, Ky., stated that he had made a specialty of bees for 20 years, and that for the first ten years he had an average of \$7.26 per colony, and for the next 10, ending with 1890, the average was \$4.41, the editor thought this was a very small yield, on an average. I think, however, that few have done much better, for that length of time.

The demand for honey at present is greater than the supply.

Round Rock, Tex., July 29, 1891.

How the Bees Act With Fruit.

C. N. WILSON.

I have been keeping bees alongside of my fruit orchard for 12 years. I grow peaches, prunes, apples, almonds, pears, oranges, lemons, limes and olives. All of my fruit commands tip top prices when put on the market, and none of my customers have complained that the fruit was injured or hurt by my bees. I find that wasps, yellow-jackets and birds will pick holes in most kinds of fruit and the bees will follow them as soon as fermentation commences in the injured fruit, and very often where fruit is injured and over-ripe the bees utilize most of it, sometimes taking all but the pit and skin. But I am glad they can utilize it, for decayed and injured fruit ought not to be put on sale by anybody.

The honey produced by my bees, is worth more gold coin than my fruit crop, and I believe in getting all one can out of any industry, and letting the best survive. So I say go in little bee, get what you can and after awhile we will divide profits. I want both fruit and bees; they seem to fit in together so nicely. But many fruit-growers seem to think it the great mission of their lives to fight and quarrel with the busy bee,

and they go to such lengths sometimes as to kill the bees.

We heard of a fruit-grower not many miles from Los Angeles who hired a man at \$2 a day and board to work a plank bee-trap during the Summer, who boasted that his man could crush two bushels of bees in a day with his plank trap. Yet the society to prevent cruelty to animals never looked after the matter. Since then that man has had scale bugs on his trees until life was a weariness to him, and we believe he has a few with him yet.

We find in our exchanges many articles touching the ability of the bees to puncture fruit; others again produce the testimony of official scientists, who declare that the bee cannot and does not injure sound fruit of any kind; that it is of great benefit to the orchardists by reason of its carrying pollen and distributing it among the bloom of fruit trees at the proper season, fructifying what would, without their aid, prove barren and useless bloom.

The gardeners never complain of bees—in fact most of them recognize the bee as a very useful friend. An exchange furnishes an exhaustive, unanswerable article on behalf of the bee that ought to settle the question beyond the realm of controversy:

In a recent issue of the *Hanford Sentinel*, G. W. Camp gives the following regarding the ever-recurring question, "Do bees injure fruit?" Mr. Oliver Smith informed me that the bees carried off a tray of raisins per day from his vineyard. He did not say whether they brought the trays back or not, but two of his neighbors told me that they saw the road near his place covered with bees carrying off his raisins. The bees were walking on their hind legs and each one had a raisin between its fore claws, and this is given as proof that they are enemies of the fruit-growers.

Should any one who says bees bite the raisins take the pains to examine a bee, while feeding, with a microscope, he will be surprised to learn that a bee has no biter, but has only a slender and a limber proboscis, that is as small as our finest needle, and through the hollow of this proboscis it can only take liquid food, and through it all the honey gathered has to pass. Will bees injure raisins? is the question. I say they will not. I know there are many who dispute this, and claim they have seen grapes eaten by them.

Those who make this assertion are only making a very common mistake, for if the skin of the grape is broken before the grape is dry, the juice of the grape

begins to ferment as soon as it is exposed to the air; as soon as fermentation begins the bees begin to eat the fermenting juice and keep at it only when and where there is fermentation.

Now, how can a grape be ruined after the skin is broken and it has begun to sour and ferment? But, says Mr. Everybody, the bees bite a hole in the skin of the grape and that makes it begin to decay. To this I would answer, please examine a bee with a microscope, when she is feeding, and you will never accuse her of biting anything again, for, as I said before, she has no biter.

You answer, if the bees do not bite a hole in the fruit and do not work on grapes until the skin is broken, how is it that they eat nearly every grape on a tray? Certainly they do, because the grapes have been wet and it does not take long for the skin of the grape to be wet to rot a hole in it. To prove this you never see bees working on grapes that have been kept dry after they were ripe, and only after heavy dews or rain do the bees work on grapes.

In drying other fruits—peaches, apricots, etc.—we never see bees working on them when drying, except they find a piece that is overripe and has begun to decay. As fermented grape juice makes only a dark syrup, it injures the sale of any honey it is mixed with, and when bees work on it the apiarist is damaged by it. I have kept bees in connection with fruit raising for the last 10 years, and consider the work they do in fertilizing the fruit trees, when in bloom, to be worth nearly as much as the honey they gather, and I do not hesitate to say that if the bees were made to move from this vicinity the loss to fruit-raisers would be far greater than all the fruit pests ever have been to this country.—*Rural Californian*.

Los Angeles, Calif.

Artificial Heat to Promote Brood-Rearing.

SAMUEL CUSHMAN.

This is a continuation of the Report of Apiculture at the New Jersey Experimental Station, contained in Bulletin No. 7:

An experiment was begun May 14, 1890, with two colonies (Nos. 4 and 14) which had been wintered in the cellar of the station farmhouse, and were in about the same condition. Thermometers were so placed that "each hive had one in the cluster and another in the most remote

part of the hive body, outside of the cluster, and both of these could be read without disturbing or exciting the bees."

When the experiment was begun four thick stone bottles, each holding a half pint, were filled with boiling water and placed back of the division-board in hive No. 4. This was renewed each morning and evening until June 20, while a record was kept of the thermometer readings for the remainder of the month. The next morning before the water was renewed the common thermometer outside the brood-nest in No. 4 stood at 68°, while in No. 14 it was at 66°. The artificial heat had apparently increased the temperature of the empty corner of the brood-chamber, leaving it at the end of 12 hours 2 or 3 degrees higher than the same space in the other hive.

The thermometer among the bees of No. 4 showed a temperature of 86°, both in the morning and at night, while in No. 14 it stood at 84° and 97°. The records for the rest of the month showed that where the heat was used the average temperature of the cluster at night and in the morning was no higher, and that when there was any difference between the two the temperature of the cluster where the heat had been given was the lower. * * *

The records also show that the temperature of the hive outside of the cluster, 12 hours after the hot water was renewed, was many degrees higher than where none had been given. * * *

The weather much of the time was very cold and changeable. The artificial heat was of the greatest value during the night and on chilly or sunless days, and better enabled the bees to cover the additional number of eggs and larvae that they had started to rear during warm, sunny days. * * *

On May 31, at 11 o'clock, and just before the thermometers were removed for the season, the one in the cluster in No. 4 indicated 94°, and out of the cluster 73½°. The bees then covered seven combs, one of which contained honey while six were full of brood. Those in No. 14 registered, in the cluster, 94°; out of the cluster, 71°. Of the seven combs, one was empty, another was full of honey, and five were quite well filled with brood, and six of these were covered with bees.

No. 4 steadily gained in bees and brood up to June 20, when the artificial heat was discontinued. No. 4 overflowed the brood-nest long before No. 14 had used all the combs, and by July 1 occupied two brood-chambers and was about twice as strong.

Both were run for extracted-honey, and on July 18 the honey was extracted from the upper story of each. The amount obtained from No. 4 was 35 pounds, and from No. 14, 15 pounds. There remained in the lower story of the latter 3 or 4 pounds more than in No. 4. As the building of queen-cells in No. 4 soon caused us to remove the queen for a time and changed the conditions, the colonies could no longer be compared, and this ended the experiment. * * *

Before such an application of artificial heat can be generally recommended further work should be done, with the conditions more favorable for accurate comparison, and on a more extensive scale. In this case, apparently just enough heat was given, and in such a way as to increase the rearing of brood without causing an abnormal condition of the colony, a much larger amount of surplus honey being thus secured.—*Experiment Station Record.*

Cause of Short Crop in Central Missouri.

G. P. NORTON.

The question is asked me almost every day, "Why is it that the bees are not gathering honey?" To understand and answer this question correctly we must go back and review the season and its circumstances.

Bees in the hands of practical men wintered well, bred rapidly in the Spring, and the hives were overflowing with bees at swarming time. So far, so good; but they have no surplus yet, nor did we expect any up to this time—we wanted bees, and we have them.

Some early swarms had issued by June 1, but at that date a season of rain began which lasted, without abatement, almost, for three or four weeks. This long season of unfavorable weather retarded swarming, demoralized the bees, and destroyed many young queens, that took advantage of the first glimpse of sunshine to meet and mate with drones.

The swarms that issued exhausted their energies in filling the new hives with combs, under such unfavorable circumstances that, by the time the weather cleared up, and the honey-flow came, the new colonies were too weak in numbers to store surplus, and before the young bees were old enough to gather honey the honey-flow had ceased. Hence, our failure to obtain a good crop of comb-honey.

The old colonies that were provided with queens, and doubled and non-swarming colonies run for extracted-honey have done fairly well, considering the season.

We may secure something from the Fall honey-flow, but three years' experience will bear me out in regarding Fall promises with suspicion and distrust.

CLOSED-ENDS, OR SELF-SPACING FRAMES.

On page 145 of the BEE JOURNAL, Mr. W. P. Faylor wrote very discouragingly about closed-end frames. If he had the self-spacing frames, like I am using, and would follow the directions for their use, he would find that all the objections which he mentions have been removed.

By using 9 or 10-frame hives, with a division-board made like a regular frame (except that the self-spacing part is cut off of one side of the frame of the board), when you put in the division-board as the last frame, there is a half-inch play, to allow it to slip easily into place.

Those who prefer the 8-frame hives can use them, but I will take the 9-frame hive every time, and use a division-board to assist in opening and closing the hive. Prairie Home, Mo.

Description of My New Swarm-Catcher.

BARNETT TAYLOR.

In answering your request for a description of my method of using my swarm-catcher, I will state the cause that induced me to experiment with them: I have for some years been handling about 200 colonies in one apiary, and I had so much trouble in getting the swarms hived, that swarming time became the terror of the bee business. In 1888, I commenced a trial of Alley's queen-traps, but they only added to my difficulties; I could catch the queens, but from two to ten swarms would come out at a time, all light in one mass, and then return to other hives than the right ones. I saw that nothing but catching the whole swarm would prevent this, and commenced to experiment in that direction.

My first catchers were made 16 inches square and 3½ feet long, and with these I could catch the bees, when I could get them adjusted to the hive tight enough to prevent the bees from getting past them; but this was difficult to accomplish, and it took too long.

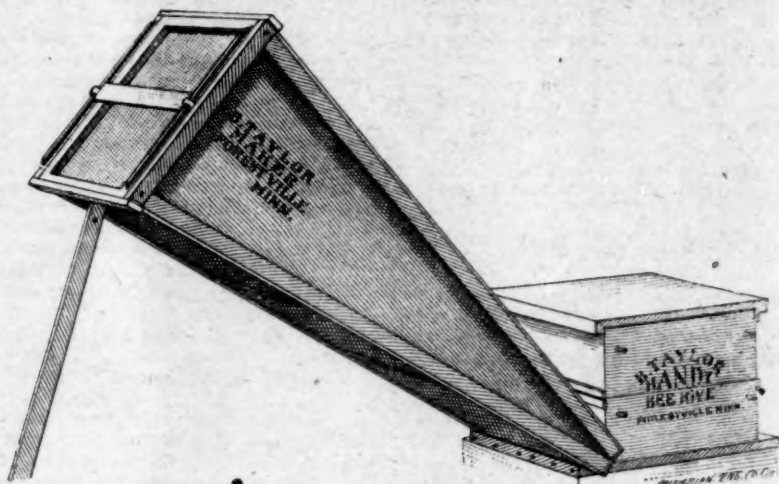
The next year I altered their shape and size, with decided improvement, but

they were still imperfect, as it was absolutely necessary that they should be capable of being instantly adjusted tightly to the hive, by any unskilled person, to make them a complete success, and now I have accomplished that end. Those that I used this year, any bright boy of ten years can adjust to a hive in ten seconds, just as certainly as the skilled bee-keeper, provided the hives are made ready for their reception, which consists in having the bottom-board of the hives project three inches, or more, in front and be the same width as the hive.

The catcher is made of a light frame of wood, 16 inches square at the large end,

and the bees that were out before it was placed, will alight on the outside, provided it is allowed to remain a few minutes for that purpose. I do not care whether I get the few bees that are flying or not, as I have the swarm on the old stand, and the mature bees will all return to the new hive, on the old one being moved away. When the bees are in, I close the place of entrance and set the catcher, big end up, in the cellar, or in a cool, shady place, and have the swarm at my leisure, either the same day, or the next, as most convenient.

When ready to hive, place the new hive on the old stand, spread a sheet in front, bring the catcher out, stand it on



SWARM-CATCHER.

and 4x16 inches at the other, and 3½ feet long. The bottom, sides and two-thirds of the top, are covered with common cotton sheeting, painted, and the remaining third of the top is covered with wire-cloth. The large end is fitted with a movable frame, covered with wire-cloth, held in place by two buttons. The small end, that fits to the hive, is made of a strip of cheap carpet 3 inches wide and 16 long. When the bees are in the catcher the small end is closed by a thin board, 3½ inches wide and 16 inches long, with a piece of leather three-fourths of an inch wide, nailed across its middle, which buttons over two ¼-inch screw heads, to hold it securely in place.

In using them, I watch until I see the swarm commencing to issue, when a catcher is quickly adjusted, and in five minutes the bees are inside the catcher,

the small end, unbutton the movable end, and carefully lift it out, as nearly all the bees will be clinging to it. Shake them off in front of their hive, and they will go in, very few of them taking wing.

This season the bees have deserted their hives in this section at an alarming rate after being hived from 12 hours to 4 days; some bee-keepers losing one-half of their swarms in that way. My loss would have been very great in that way but for the catchers. When a swarm was seen coming out after having been hived, they were caught and returned to the cellar for 30 or 40 hours, and then rehived without further trouble.

I have made a square, upright catcher, which is intended to act automatically. I think I shall make it a success, and will report on further trial; but I had been laboring this year to equalize all my

swarms, and so well did I succeed that when swarming commenced I had no time to experiment—95 swarms coming out in the first five days of July. On Sunday, July 5, I had 25 swarms issue in three hours, and without the catchers it would have been impossible to have done anything with them. I never saw such a rush of bees before, but I caught and hived them all, without their getting together, or losing a single queen. I believe the catchers saved me \$50 on that one day. Yes, sir, they will revolutionize the management of large apiaries, as a smart boy or girl of twelve years can use them as well as an expert bee-keeper.

I must add that I use a lath, notched on the edge, to hold the catcher up when on the hive. The catcher will fit at any angle, whether 45° or lying nearly flat. My success in using them, has caused me to make 100 artificial swarms, and again enlarge my bee business.

Forestville, Minn.

How to Find a Queen.

G. M. DOOLITTLE.

When settled warm weather comes in the Spring, it is necessary that each colony contain a prolific queen, for if the queen in any colony should be old and failing, that colony could not be brought up to a proper condition to work to the best advantage during the honey harvest. As the queen is mother of all the bees in the hive, she must be able to lay rapidly so as to increase the population of the hive, and if such an one is not in the hive she should be superseded with a better queen.

It also often happens, that the queen which the hive contained during the Fall, dies in early Spring, and in that case it is absolutely necessary that the bee-keeper knows it, else that colony will perish, for the bees which have been wintered over, rapidly die off with the work which now devolves upon them, for old age is brought upon the bees sooner or later, according to the labor which they perform.

There is no way of knowing to a certainty what is going on inside, except by opening the hive and inspecting the frames. To know if there is a queen in the hive, look closely at the combs, and if no eggs or small larva are found in the bottom of the cells, at a time when the bees begin to bring in pollen in the


Spring, you can reasonably expect that they are queenless, while if the eggs are few and scattered about in different cells, without regularity, the queen is unprolific.

To be absolutely sure that a colony is queenless, take a frame of comb having eggs and little larva in it, and put it in the center of the supposed queenless colony, leaving it for three days. If queenless, queen-cells will be formed over some of the little larva, while if no such cells are started, rest assured that the bees of this hive have something which they are respecting as a queen, and which must be found before a good one can be introduced.

To the accustomed eye of the practical apiarist, prolific queens are easily found, especially if the bees are of the Italian race; but a virgin queen is often hard to find by an expert. The best time to look for a queen is about 10 o'clock, on some bright, warm morning, when the most of the old bees are in the field after pollen and honey.

Open the hive carefully, taking out the frames slowly, and making sure that you do not hit them against the sides of the hive or anything else, so as to make the bees nervous, thereby setting them to running or stinging. When you have the first frame out, look it over carefully, and if you do not see the queen, set this frame and the next one in a box, or in some secure place where you can leave them out of the hive till you look the others over.

After these two are out, you have the hive so that you can see down into it quite well. Ontaking out another frame, glance down the side of the next one in the hive, when the queen will often be seen running around to the opposite or dark side of the comb, for young queens are shy. In thus running she shows the sides of her abdomen, to the eyes looking obliquely down, to a much better advantage than could be if the eyes were looking directly upon her back. If you do not see her, look on the opposite side of the comb you hold in your hands, looking obliquely as before, for she will be on one of these dark sides if anywhere on the comb. In this way keep on until she is found, or all the frames are taken from the hive. If unsuccessful, close the hive and try again in an hour or so, when success will attend your efforts.—*Rural Home.*

 The sewing machine I got of you still gives excellent satisfaction—W. J. PATTERSON, Sullivan, Ills.

CONVENTION DIRECTORY.*Time and place of meeting.*

1891.
 Sept. 3.—Susquehanna County, at So. Montrose, Pa.
 H. M. Seeley, Sec., Harford, Pa.
 Oct. 14, 15.—S. W. Wisconsin, at Fennimore, Wis.
 Benj. E. Rice, Sec., Boscobel, Wis.

[E] In order to have this table complete, Secretaries are requested to forward full particulars of the time and the place of each future meeting.—THE EDITOR.

North American Bee-Keepers' Association

PRESIDENT—P. H. Elwood....Starkville, N. Y.
 SECRETARY—C. P. Dadant.....Hamilton, Ills.

National Bee-Keepers' Union.

PRESIDENT—James Heddon...Dowagiac, Mich.
 SEC'Y AND MANAGER—T. G. Newman, Chicago.

Bee and Honey Gossip.

[E] Do not write anything for publication on the same sheet of paper with business matters, unless it can be torn apart without interfering with either part of the letter.

Cannot be Excelled.

Bees are doing well here, having cast from three to five swarms per colony, and are gathering honey very fast. This is a good country for bees, and the quality of our honey cannot be excelled, and the comb is as white as white clover. All the clovers do well here.

E. J. ROCKEFELLER.

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Ter.

Good Prospects for a Fall Crop.

We are having plenty of rain, and the bees are gradually gathering a little more honey. Prospects are exceedingly good for a Fall crop. White clover yielded a very light crop in this locality. I have never found a set of brood-frames that did not have more or less burr-combs built between the top of them and the section cases, but when a wood-zinc honey-board is used that trouble is entirely obviated. I am prepared to say that the wood-zinc honey-board does not lessen my honey crop to any appreciable extent. I cannot become reconciled to closed-end brood-frames, but perhaps the Hoffman frame might prove more satisfactory. When I use Dr. Miller's tent bee-escapes, which he recommends to

prevent robbing, the bees crawl out all right for a time, until robber bees begin to catch the escaping bees and take their honey from them, and finally such a crowd of robbers cluster on the top that none of the bees can escape without being deprived of their honey. With a good bee-escape underneath the surplus case there will be no such trouble. Eight-frame hives are fast coming into use here, with loose, cleated bottoms and tops.

FRANK COVERDALE.

Welton, Iowa.

Selling Bug-Juice.

On page 136 you say it is criminal to allow any bug-juice to be sold as honey. I will say that I *know* that thousands of pounds of it are being placed on the markets. It makes me feel pretty badly to think they sell this stuff, when my good golden-rod honey goes begging in Chicago at 9 and 10 cents, because the dealers do not want the capping yellow.

R. S. BECKTELL.

Three Oaks, Mich.

[To say that it is sold by some unprincipled persons does not excuse them. It is a crime nevertheless. To sell anything for honey, which is *not* honey, is a *crime*! No matter whether it be glucose or bug-juice. It is dishonest.—Ed.]

No Fear of Low Prices.

Bees have been doing well, but at present no honey is being gathered, which is probably owing to the recent heavy rains, and sections have to be taken off in order to prevent yellow combs. The present indications are that a low price for honey is not to be feared. The bees are now busy in rearing brood, and, of course, what honey is coming in goes to the brood.

S. M. CARLZEN.

Montclair, Colo., July 29, 1891.

He Should be Exposed.

I had some trouble in securing goods which had been ordered from —, and I think he should be "shown up." Last Winter I wrote to him for prices on 200 T tins, 14½ inches long, and 2 pounds of wire nails, ¾ inches long. His answer was that the T tins would be worth \$2.00, and the nails at market price. I ordered 136 T tins 14½ inches long, and two pounds of the wire nails. On arrival I found the T tins to be 13½

inches long, and the nails were clout nails. With the above, I had ordered a tested Italian queen, price \$3.00, to be sent in April, at his risk; but he did not send her until May 8, and she was so near dead that she could not crawl when she reached me, on May 14, and died that afternoon. I sent the queen back to him, and also the tins and nails. I wrote him twice after that, and the last time, about June 24, I said that I would have him reported if he did not send the right tins, nails, and a good queen, or refund the money. July 3 he wrote that he did not have the tins of the proper length, nor nails of the right size, and returned the money for them, saying that he would send the queen as soon as he could determine what the bees were, since which time I have heard nothing from him, nor received the queen, and I should like to have him reported. I could not keep bees without the BEE JOURNAL, it gives so much valuable information. It is worth five times the subscription price. JAS. P. GOODWIN.

Danbury, Iowa, July 27, 1891.

[If this is a fair statement of the transaction, there can be no excuse for such unbusiness-like conduct. We withhold the name so as not to injure the business of the supply dealer, and give him an opportunity to make reparation. If he does not do so, we may give his name and address in the future.—ED.]

Not First-Class.

The honey crop will not be first-class in this part of the country. The weather has been very cold for this time of year, but is warming up now.

BARNETT TAYLOR.

Forestville, Minn., July 27, 1891.

Poorest Honey Crop Ever Known.

The honey season is over in this locality, and it has been one of the poorest ever known. I had to feed all my bees up to July 12, to keep them in good condition, for the basswood, that looked so promising; but when it came into bloom the weather was everything but what it should have been, and between the wind and cold, rainy weather the bees could not work, and the result is there is but little surplus in the hives to take off. There was quite a frost in this section last night. IRA BARBER.

DeKalb Junction, N. Y., July 31.

Porter Bee-Escape.

I wish to add my hearty endorsement of the Porter Bee-Escape. It is a most excellent implement. Ruse is worthy of great praise for bringing this idea before the bee-keeping public. Dibbern should have recognition for his suggestion, but the Messrs. Porter have so perfected the instrument, that success is certain in every case. Like the bee-tent, this invention is worthy a place in every apiary, and its merits are so patent that it will soon take this place. No bee-keeper can afford to be without it.

A. J. COOK.

Agricultural College, Mich.

Black vs. Italian Bees.

Yesterday I lifted the super from a hive containing black bees, for one of my neighbors, and found the honey to be very dark. It tastes like sorghum molasses which has been made from frozen cane. It is "bug-juice," of course. From my Italians I have taken 42 sections of honey, gathered during the same time as the above, and find it so clear that you can see through the honey, and it is of as fine flavor as any one could wish for. Who will say that black bees are as good as any?

J. H. BERRY.

Gales Creek, Oreg., July 30, 1891.

Spraying Trees.

There is no use in talking, we must prosecute the first man spraying trees when in full bloom. The law provides ample punishment for any person convicted of putting out poison.

Duester, Wis.

H. O. KRUSCHKE.

Best Crop for Four Years.

My bees have done better this Summer than any season during the last four years, and the same report comes from nearly all bee-keepers in this vicinity. I think we have had more rain this year than formerly.

FRANK HENTRICK.

Wall Lake, Iowa.

Fall Honey-Flow.

One of my neighbors lost 2 colonies of bees lately. When he examined the hives he found them full of honey and bees, but no queen, nor brood. Neither colony had cast a swarm this season. What became of the queens? Did the bees supersede the old ones, and were the young queens lost on their wedding

flight? Honey-dew was very plentiful this season, which is something unusual in this locality. I have been bothered with grass growing around my hives, and have pulled it up, and clipped it off, but it still grew. Then I took a hoe and scraped it off in front of the hives, and do not think it will grow so fast now. I think we will have a good honey-flow this Fall from river weeds and stick weeds.

A. C. BABB.

Greenville, Tenn.

[The colonies were doubtless rendered queenless in the manner you suggest, but not being conversant with the circumstances and surroundings, we are unable to give a positive opinion. The answer by Mr. Doolittle, to Query 756, page 345 of the BEE JOURNAL, might prove of benefit to you in your battle with the grass.—Ed.]

Honey Crop Two-Thirds, so Far.

My report for this year I will send in when the season closes. My average is about two-thirds of a crop. Have sold 2,680 pounds of extracted, at $8\frac{1}{2}$ cents per pound, kegs returned. I have been offered 15 cents for comb-honey, but think 18 cents is not too much. I have about 450 pounds on hand, and about 200 pounds to be taken off.

WM. SEITZ.

Hustisford, Wis., Aug. 7, 1891.

Due to Gentle Manipulation.

1. Do the Italians ever come up over the top of the frames in a threatening manner and fly out and sting one, like the blacks? 2. Are the Albinos as hardy as the Italians, i. e., do they winter as well? 3. Are all the progeny of an Italian queen that has been fertilized by a black drone, vindictive.

I. F. DIAMOND.

Fly Mountain, N. Y.

[1. No.

2. Many think that they do not winter quite as successfully, but it has not been fully demonstrated.

3. No. Gentle handling has more to do with the docility of bees than many imagine. Some hybrids are more amiable than pure Italians. This is accounted for by the gentleness with which they are manipulated.—Ed.]

Bees Killing Their Queen.

The honey crop in this locality is not as abundant as was expected by the way the bees worked in the early part of the season. They are gathering some light honey now which is very nice, and also some dark honey, but I do not think it is any darker than some that I have had at different times within the last few years. While I was examining my bees, lately, in one colony, I noticed that the bees were killing their queen. She seemed to be nearly dead. I found no other queen in the hive. I have never found such a case before, during my ten years' experience, in bee-keeping, and would like to know the cause of it.

MRS. E. L. SEALS.

Dixon, Ills., July 27, 1891.

[The case as reported, is unusual. Without knowing more about it, I am unable to say why the queen was killed, and indeed I might not be able to tell any better if I knew the circumstances in full. Sometimes bees do things without any apparent reason for it.

The queen may have been injured in some way the last time the hive was opened, or, indeed, at the time the trouble was discovered. Possibly the bees had tried to swarm, and the old queen was not able to go with them, in which case they might ball her.—C. C. MILLER.]

Less than Average.

In some localities there has been an excellent honey-flow, but generally, I believe, the crop will be slightly below the average. There has been very little swarming.

R. F. HOLTERMANN.

Brantford, Ont.

Bees Not Swarming.

I have 8 colonies of bees, but none of them have cast swarms this season. Last year I had but 2 swarms from 8 colonies. I think I should like the Punic bees, if they are as represented, but desire more information before investing in them.

GEORGE HODGE.

Belmont, N. Y., Aug. 14, 1891.

Clubs of 5 New Subscriptions for \$4.00 to any addresses. Ten for \$7.50.

Wavelets of News.

Sweet Corn as a Honey-Plant.

I have been watching with interest the bees working upon the tassels of the corn, and I have come to the conclusion that they gather honey as well as pollen, for they dive deep into the bloom, away from the pollen dust. Corn fields will be quite an attraction this Fall for bees, as the rains have brought up *Polygonum pennsylvanicum* since the last plowing, and also where early potatoes have been dug. Some seasons this plant yields white honey abundantly of a pungent flavor, disagreeable to some persons. A few years since, the Sny levees in the western part of the State, bordering the Mississippi River, were overflowed in June, and the crops destroyed, when this plant, which some persons call smart-weed, took possession, and thousands of acres were waving like billows of the sea. Messrs. Dadant, of Hamilton, Ills., moved their bees thither, and were well paid for their work.—Mrs. L. HARRISON, in the *Prairie Farmer*.

Lifetime of the Bee.

Some think that bees that have a queen do not live more than 45 days, during the swarming season. Old bees may not live more than 45 days. If, however, we set a comb of hatching Italians, that will come out inside of five days, in a black or Carnolian colony, they are not likely to die in 60 days.

Some seasons bees die more rapidly than at others. It depends greatly on the amount of labor necessary for them to perform their ordinary duties. For instance, in very windy weather, or in a windy locality, bees wear out much faster than they do when the air is still. The same thing is true if they have a long way to go to gather their stores.

What veteran bee-keeper has not frequently noticed how quickly the hives will depopulate on windy days in Spring?

The bees become worn out when they have to put on extra efforts to fly against the wind; and this is a point that should guide people in siting their apiary. As far as possible they should select a sheltered locality, and the shorter the distance the bees have to go to gather their stores, the longer they live.

Take two colonies of equal age and strength, one having to gather its stores from two to four miles in an unprotected locality, while the other is situated in a

protected spot, and gathers its stores around in a radius of a mile, the one would live about a third longer than the other.

The amount of exertion the bees have to make indicates, to a great extent, the time they will live, and the less work they have to perform the longer their vitality lasts. For instance, when bees live six or seven months in winter quarters, and when set out be apparently as young and lively as when put in, in the Fall. Locate your bees as favorably as possible, and they are likely to live a great deal longer. We believe fifty colonies favorably situated, will produce as much as 100 unfavorably situated.—*Canadian Bee Journal*.

Sweet Prospects.

Last season was a discouraging one to the bee-keeper in this part of the country. It is, therefore, a matter of more than usual interest to record that the present year cheers us with a lively hope of a fair harvest at least.

The fine weather in early Spring, with abundant fruit and dandelion bloom, caused the bees to build up rapidly. Sufficient and timely rains gave us the best growth and bloom of white clover we have had for several years. A constant succession of other honey-yielding flowers kept the bees well supplied, and thus encouraged they began swarming early in June and were well nigh over the swarming fever before the blooming of basswood.

This is our best honey plant, and while it lasts the bees store rapidly, if strong enough to enter the surplus boxes. Basswood opened this year about July 8.

There are certain conditions of the atmosphere—electrical or otherwise—favorable to the secretion of nectar in flowers. Blossoms alone are not proof of the presence of honey.

Some seasons nectar secretion is much more abundant than others, when to the eye no reason is apparent.

This year the conditions seem to be favorable. If the Fall flowers yield as abundantly as those already in bloom, or past, we shall exhibit to our friends a less elongated expression of countenance than in the Fall of 1890.—EUGENE SECOR, in *Iowa Homestead*.

We Club the American Bee Journal and the Illustrated Home Journal, one year for \$1.35. Both of these and Gleanings in Bee Culture, for one year, for \$2.15.

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ALFRED H. NEWMAN,

BUSINESS MANAGER.

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We Club the *American Bee Journal* for a year, with any of the following papers or books, at the prices quoted in the **LAST** column. The regular price of both is given in the first column. One year's subscription for the *American Bee Journal* must be sent with each order for another paper or book:

	Price of both.	Club.
The <i>American Bee Journal</i>	\$1 00....	
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Bee-Keepers' Review.....	2 00....	1 75
The Apiculturist.....	1 75....	1 65
Canadian Bee Journal.....	1 75....	1 65
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Convention Hand-Book.....	1 50....	1 30
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The Lever (Temperance).....	2 00....	1 75
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Farm, Field and Stockman.....	2 00....	1 75
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When talking about Bees to your friend or neighbor, you will oblige us by commending the *BEE JOURNAL* to him, and taking his subscription to send with your renewal. For this work we will present you with a copy of the *Convention Hand-Book*, by mail, postpaid. It sells at 50 cents.

Bee-Keeping for Profit, by Dr. G. L. Tinker, is a new 50-page pamphlet, which details fully the author's new system of bee-management in producing comb and extracted-honey, and the construction of the hive best adapted to it—his "Nonpareil." The book can be had at this office for 25c.

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